

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the examiner's review of the application, and request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Related Litigation

As a preliminary matter, the applicants would like to officially notify the US Patent and Trademark Office that this patent application's parent patent (US 6,650,327, filed on June 16, 1998, and assigned application number 09/098,041) currently is the subject of the following ongoing litigation:

Silicon Graphics, Inc. v. ATI Technologies, Inc., United States District Court For The Western District of Wisconsin, Civil Action No. 06-C-0611-C. Pursuant to the applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the applicants' submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement listing other material information arising from that litigation (see, for example, MPEP 2001.06(c) for a summary of such possible subject matter).

To confirm receipt by the PTO, the Supplemental Information Disclosure also has a listing of prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement that appears to have been filed on September 16, 2003.

Pending Claims

The most recent office action rejected all remaining claims. To expedite prosecution, the applicants amended claim 1 to have a rasterization circuit that rasterizes a primitive "according to a scan conversion process which operates using a floating point format." The cited art does not teach such a system.

In particular, Rossin (US 5,862,066) explicitly teaches a fixed point rasterization circuit, while Deering (US 6,115,047) discusses Z-buffering using a floating point format---neither reference teaches *scan converting* using a floating point format.

Applicants also do not see any such teaching in Olano. Accordingly, if each cited reference omits this element, then the combination of these references also cannot teach such an element.


Claim 1 and its dependent claims therefore are allowable in view of the cited art. In a similar manner, independent claims 22 and 45 also require scan conversion using a floating point format. Accordingly, claims 22, 45, and their dependent claims also are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 31 defines a system having, among other things, a "floating point frame buffer. . .for storing a plurality of floating point color values." None of the cited references discloses a frame buffer storing floating point color values. At most, only Deering suggests use of floating point Z-values in a frame buffer (see column 14, lines 15-18); Deering does not teach storing *color values* in a frame buffer. Accordingly, claim 31 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited art.

It should be noted that the power of attorney of this matter has been transferred to Steven Saunders and other attorneys at Bromberg & Sunstein LLP. Accordingly, kindly direct all correspondence to Steven Saunders.

Applicants request an interview at the examiner's convenience and a three month extension of time (charged to deposit account 19-4972). If additional fees are required, please charge deposit account number 19-4972.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven G. Saunders", written in a cursive style.

Steven G. Saunders
Registration No. 36,265

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